organizing coaching camps for preparation of teams and for engaging the services of foreign coaches.

In addition, SAI provides regular coaching to youth at its sports facilities in States and Regional Centres.

Decision of BCCI to withdraw from cricket tournaments

2261. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of the Board of Control for Cricket in India to withdraw from participation from major cricket tournaments like the World Cup, Asia Cup and the ICC Knockout Cup because of the refusal of the Government to allow participation in the non-regular venues like Sharjah and Singapore etc.; if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(b) if so, what is the likely impact on the Indian Cricket for non-participation in major and international tournaments;

(c) whether there is any clear-cut policy or directives in this respect; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The Government has not received any formal communication from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) regarding its decision. The Government has not disallowed participation of Indian Cricket team in major events like World Cup, Asia Cup or ICC Knock Out Tournament.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has clarified its policy to BCCI that under the prevailing circumstances it would be inappropriate for the Indian team to participate in a two-nation tournament between India and Pakistan at present. The Government has also taken a decision not to play any matches at non-regular venues at least for a period of three years. India will thus continue to play Pakistan in multilateral tournaments at regular venues. However, the permission to play in a

particular event will be given on receipt of the proposal on a case-to-case basis after completing requisite formalities.

List of drug-abusing Sports-persons in Delhi High Court

2262. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sports Authority of India has furnished to Delhi High Court a list of 257 sports-persons of repute, tested positive for banned drugs from 1991, till date; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the athletes using performance enhancing drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) On the direction of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, a list of sports-persons who showed indication being positive has been submitted by the Sports Authority of India to the Hon'ble Court under sealed cover with the submission that the Dope Control Laboratory of Sports Authority of India is neither accredited with the International Olympic Committee nor fully equipped, hence the results can only be taken as indicative.

(b) The results of the test so conducted, are forwarded to the concerned National Federations for further necessary action in accordance with the laid down norms of their respective International Federation.

IOA Committee on Dope Scandal

2263. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report, "Stunned by Dope Scandal, IOA orders a probe", published in the Hindustan Times, dated 8th July, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) by when, the probe Committee is likely to submit its report; and

(d) the steps proposed by Government to ensure regular follow-up